

SECRET

OLC 69-0949
12 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.)
on Sino-Soviet Relations

1. On this date in response to a request from the Senator made through his Special Assistant, Mr. William Miller, I accompanied Mr. Bruce Clarke to a briefing of Senator John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.) on Sino-Soviet relations. In responding to Miller's request for the briefing, I made it clear that the briefing would have to be given for the Senator only and this obviously rankled Miller, who had planned to sit in. I told him that the Agency was following a policy of not including personal staff members in our briefings of Senators and members of Congress. Miller said this made it difficult for him since the Senator relied on him in preparation of his material and views on foreign policy issues. In discussing the subject I distinguished the attendance of Committee staff members at Agency briefings (which is done by mutual agreement between the Director and the Chairman involved) from briefings of personal staff members. In responding to this, Miller said "well that will probably be taken care of in a couple of months."

2. When we arrived on the Hill, we were joined by Miller who escorted us to the Senator's private office in the east front of the Capitol. While we were waiting for the Senator, Miller commented that he had taken care of the matter that he and Mr. Maury had discussed (presumably the question of his lack of special clearances.) I replied that I had no word on this. Miller went on to say that Senator Cooper had written a letter to the Director on this. When the Senator arrived, Miller departed.

SECRET

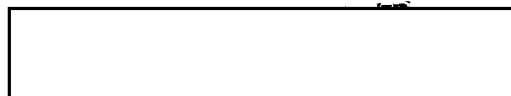
SECRET

3. Senator Cooper was obviously quite harassed and very preoccupied. The "briefing" lasted 25 minutes and was broken up by the Senator having to answer a quorum call. Despite several attempts at explanations by the Senator and several efforts by Mr. Clarke to determine precisely what the Senator's interest was in the Sino-Soviet situation, the Senator never really made this clear. Mr. Clarke attempted to brief him on the historical background of the current Sino-Soviet dispute and then, with the use of several maps, identified the areas involved and the disposition of troops along the border. The Senator made very hasty notes and commented at one point that he was doing "an article" on the subject. He asked Mr. Clarke if we had any unclassified material on the subject which might be helpful to him and Mr. Clarke offered to provide something along this line.

4. I mentioned to the Senator as we were leaving that I hoped Miller's absence from the briefing had not created any difficulty. I intended to then refer to the Director's conversations with the Senator on this subject and express our policy regarding briefings of personal staff members. However, Senator Cooper hastily departed saying he understood since Miller did not have the necessary clearances.

5. Senator Cooper apologized about the inconvenience he created the Agency in requesting these briefings and suggested that he might come out to the Agency soon to go into this matter further.

25X1A



Deputy Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Orig - Subject

1 - Mr. Bruce Clarke, OSR

X- Chrono

OLC/GLC:gs (13 November 1969)

SECRET